

## Budget Results for Neighborhoods

By Yvonne Sanchez, Director

Thank you to everyone who provided support and advocacy for the Mayor's proposed Department of Neighborhoods budget as it marched through the Council Budget Process. As a result of your effort, we maintained Matching Fund at \$3.7 million and held on to the three Neighborhood Development Manager positions recommended in the Mayor's 2003 Budget.

Among changes City Council made after its deliberation of the Mayor's proposed budget, was the reinstatement of the Lake City Neighborhood District Coordinator position. Council also restored funding for the Project Lift-off Opportunity Fund administered by the Department of Neighborhoods' Office for Education. Funding for the Dispute Resolution Center was partially restored, and Council increased funds for the Seattle Neighborhood Group to augment crime prevention activities throughout the city. Finally, the City Council established new policy directives for Large Project awards from the Neighborhood Matching Fund. These directives cap awards at \$100,000 and disallow matching fund dollars for property acquisition and operating & maintenance costs.

In addition to these changes, there are budget reductions that were unanticipated which I thought you might want to know about. An additional position was cut from the Neighborhood Plan Implementation Program, reducing the support for the three remaining Neighborhood Development Managers. While the pace of plan implementation will be slowed down, we are committed to moving forward

*(Budget, continued on page 2)*

## Celebrate Neighbor Appreciation Day

How will your neighborhood celebrate Neighbor Appreciation Day? This year's event falls on Saturday, February 8. It's an occasion to recognize the contributions and goodness of neighbors and those around us, to get to know neighbors, and to say "thank you."

2003 will mark the ninth annual Neighbor Appreciation Day, which started when Phinney Ridge resident Judith Wood asked then-Mayor Norm

Neighbor Appreciation Day  
is Saturday, February 8

Rice to designate "a special day to celebrate the goodness in those around us and to reach out and strengthen our bonds to each other." Each year, participation has grown and we're hoping 2003 continues that tradition. Over the years, neighbors have organized block parties, open houses, award ceremonies, potluck meals, and other gatherings to recognize and encourage caring neighbors.

### PLAN A NEIGHBORHOOD EVENT

Neighbor Appreciation Day is a grassroots holiday and its success depends on you. So huddle up with your neighbors and plan an event that reflects the unique spirit of your neighborhood. Let us know if you are planning an activity to celebrate the day and we'll include your event in our special calendar for elected officials and the media.

*(Neighbor Appreciation Day, continued on page 3)*

*(Budget, continued from page 1)*

on the plans and focusing our efforts on the areas with the greatest needs.

A position was also cut from the Major Institutions and Public Schools Program from the one and a half positions proposed by the Mayor. This leaves a half-time position to support the Citizen Advisory Committees for major institution master plans and public schools development reviews. To compensate for this loss we will be exploring ways to streamline the Major Institutions and schools review and reporting processes, and will investigate the implementation of fees for service. However, this effort notwithstanding, it will be a challenge to deliver current levels of community and institution support given this staffing reduction.

The Neighborhood Payment & Information Services Program will experience a setback to one of the Mayor's top priorities: expansion of neighborhood service center hours so residents can access services provided conveniently at neighborhood "little city halls" after regular business hours and on weekends. The expansion of service hours had been planned for five neighborhood service centers. Funding for this was eliminated in the Council approved FY2003 budget. We will be searching hard for ways to expand access to city government and its myriad of services.

Finally, Council made an additional lump-sum reduction of \$130,000 to administration of the Neighborhood Matching Fund Program. This means we are losing an additional project manager position along with some operating and administrative support. This additional reduction means we are cutting one more position to the one position cut sustained in the Mayor's proposed budget. Thus, we are faced with a project management staffing level lower than what we had when the Neighborhood Matching Fund was at \$1.5 million. We will be engaging stakeholders in looking for ways to consolidate application processes. While we will attempt innovation that maintains our technical assistance and customer support to you, it might prove difficult.

As this year draws to a close and we see ahead to doing with less, I am thankful for your support and for the incredibly wonderful staff who work at DON. Despite the challenges our budget poses, I remain optimistic and hopeful, and even more committed to working with you to strengthen communities, to engaging people in civic participation, and to bringing government closer to the people. ♦

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(Neighbor Appreciation Day, continued from page 1)

## FREE GREETING CARDS AVAILABLE

The Department of Neighborhoods and SAFECO have teamed up to make Neighbor Appreciation Day greeting cards available for free to Seattle residents, schools, and community organizations that want to acknowledge the good work of their neighbors and others who make their neighborhood a special place to live. The cards will be available in mid-January at the 13 Neighborhood Service Centers around Seattle.

For more information on Neighbor Appreciation Day, to obtain greeting cards, or to put your neighborhood event on our calendar, call Natasha Jones at (206) 615-0950, send e-mail to [natasha.jones@seattle.gov](mailto:natasha.jones@seattle.gov), or go to <http://www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods/appday/> on the internet.

## Neighborhood Night with Sonics

Looking for a fun but affordable night out with friends? How about attending the 4th annual Seattle Neighborhood Night with the Sonics? The Sonics organization has put together a great package for Neighborhood groups citywide. Gather your friends and neighbors to watch the Sonics face off against the Memphis Grizzlies Friday, January 17, 2003. Tip-off is 7 p.m.

### PRE-GAME INSTRUCTIONAL BASKETBALL CLINIC WITH A SONICS MEMBER

As part of Neighborhood Night with the Sonics, the team is offering a specially discounted \$15 ticket. All neighborhood groups will be featured on the ArenaVision during the game, and be invited to an instructional basketball clinic for kids at 5 p.m. Doors to the pre-game clinic will open at 4:45 p.m. and the clinic will start promptly at 5 p.m.

To order tickets by fax or phone, call Scott Earle at (206) 272-2618 or send e-mail to [SEarle@Sonics-Storm.com](mailto:SEarle@Sonics-Storm.com) by January 3. ♦



## Communities That Care Meetings Begin

On Tuesday, December 10, 2002 Powerful Partners for Powerful Youth hosted a successful community meeting regarding Communities That Care® (CTC), a complete prevention planning system for healthy communities. CTC helps communities take an integrated approach to positive youth development and the prevention of risk behaviors including substance abuse, academic failure, teen pregnancy, school drop-out, and violence.

The City of Seattle is taking the first steps in implementing this model in neighborhoods, building on the Seattle Public Schools' use of Communities That Care® to prevent social barriers to academic achievement and eliminate the achievement gap.

Approximately 40 people including youth, service providers, school officials, parents and City representatives attended the first CTC meeting facilitated by Susan Harmon. The Seattle Public Schools, Child and Adolescent Development Institute (CADI), and the City of Seattle provided information about the Communities that Care process each is undertaking. Most importantly, these representatives described the partnership developing among their organizations.

Additional community meetings will be held in January that will inform more youth and families about Communities That Care. At this time, the goal of the city process is to understand whether community representatives are interested in and prepared to engage in this planning process.

The CTC model is just one element of the Mayor's overall strategy to align children and youth programs to achieve specific measurable outcomes for families. While the Mayor's strategic approach addresses all children and youth services provided by the city, CTC will tentatively be piloted in only three communities: Delridge, Rainier Beach, and Bitter Lake.

For more information about Communities That Care®, contact Patricia Lopez in the Department of Neighborhoods at (206) 684-0713 or send e-mail to [Patricia.Lopez@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Lopez@seattle.gov) ♦



# 15 middle school students honored as Mayor's Scholars

*By Irene Stewart, Office for Education, Department of Neighborhoods*

Last month, 15 Seattle middle school students who have made their communities stronger through community service were presented with 2002 Mayor's Scholars Awards. Mayor Greg Nickels presented a Mayor's Scholars letter jacket and certificate to each of the student in an evening celebration in the Mayor's Conference Room. Each student will also receive a \$500 award that can be contributed to the charity or cause of their choice or invested in Washington State's Guaranteed Education Tuition to further their education after high school.



Mayor's Scholars are selected based on their community service, life goals, grades, and recommendations from adults who are familiar with their service work: friends, neighbors and teachers. To apply, each student wrote four brief essays describing how they give

2002 MAYOR'S SCHOLAR	GRADE	MIDDLE SCHOOL
Yusuf Beshir	7	Meany
Aaron Burt	8	Madison
Jennifer Gee	8	Asa Mercer
Laura Gough	8	Whitman
Shira Hoffman	8	Madison
Melody Hirsch	8	Salmon Bay
Nick Johnson	6	Our Lady of Fatima
Rina Kheav	7	Asa Mercer
Steven Kwan	8	Asa Mercer
Kirk Lopez-Mohedano	8	Madison
Cree Okimow	8	Pathfinder
Carlos Rufin	8	Whitman
Neama Said	6	Washington
Claire Smith	8	Eckstein
Whitney Tsai	8	Aki Kurose



back to their community, how they propose to spend the award money, and their future plans.

“What impressed me wasn’t so much their GPAs, as high as they were, but the fact that each of these students has already made a difference in his or her community,” said Mayor Nickels. “By publicly recognizing their achievements, we hope to bolster confidence and encourage lifelong community involvement.”

Three special scholarships were also presented. A \$1,000 Leighton Hilbert Scholarship (see sidebar) was presented to Cree Okimow, who attends Pathfinder School in West Seattle. Two \$2,375 scholarships from the Ginger and Barry Ackerley Foundation were presented to Claire Smith, who attends Eckstein Middle School in northeast Seattle, and Whitney Tsai, who attends Aki Kurose Middle School in southeast Seattle.

The Mayor’s Scholars Awards Program is coordinated by the City’s Office for Education, a division of the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, with assistance from the Alliance for Education, a 501c3 organization. The program is funded by private donations. For more information, call (206) 233-5118.

## WOODCARVER LEIGHTON HILBERT HONORED AT MAYOR’S SCHOLARS CELEBRATION

It took more than 30 years, but the artist who carved the well-known City seal in the Mayor’s Conference Room finally got his wish. Leighton Hilbert created the black walnut relief carving 33 years ago. It has been photographed and televised through five City administrations and become one of the most recognized symbols of City government in Seattle. Mr. Hilbert donated the sculpture to the City of Seattle. “I never did want anything for myself out of it,” he said. “All I wanted was a \$1,000 college scholarship to be given to a Pacific Northwest Indian student.”



*Leighton Hilbert with Mayor Nickels in front of the City seal that Hilbert created.*

In February, P-I columnist Jon Hahn told Hilbert’s story. When Mayor Greg Nickels read that Hilbert never received his wish, he wrote to Hilbert: “It’s time we take care of that unfinished business,” said the Mayor in announcing that a special scholarship would be awarded to a Native American middle school student as part of the Mayor’s Scholars Awards Program. The scholarship is funded through private donations to the nonprofit Alliance for Education.

The Leighton Hilbert Scholarship was awarded last month to Cree Okimow, a member of the Shoshone tribe and a resident of Delridge. Cree was part of a student group that successfully fought the use of Native American school mascots last summer. She continues to fight against Native American stereotyping through Youth Undoing Institutional Racism. Cree helped organize the First Nation’s Teach Out this fall and is helping to plan a First Nation Saturday School. She also helped design and build a Web site for the Seattle Indigenous Women’s Network. ♦

# LEARNING FROM THE PAST, INSPIRING THE FUTURE: CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF SEATTLE'S OLMSTED PARK SYSTEM

By Kari Stiles, Centennial Coordinator for Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks

A century ago, city officials, community leaders and the citizenry of Seattle recognized the value of their spectacular natural landscape and invited the top landscape architectural firm in the country to design a city-wide park system that would celebrate, showcase, and protect the spectacular Pacific Northwest landscape. The parks would also provide access and opportunities for all of Seattle's residents to experience and enjoy their extraordinary natural environment. John Charles Olmsted, of the Olmsted Brothers firm of Brookline, Massachusetts arrived to survey the Seattle area in the spring of 1903. By October, the firm had prepared plans for a comprehensive system of parks and boulevards that has achieved national recognition as one of the most fully-realized Olmsted park systems in the country.

The Olmsted legacy includes such familiar Seattle treasures as the Washington Park Arboretum, Lake Washington, Ravenna and Magnolia Boulevards, and Volunteer, Woodland Green Lake and Seward Parks, as well as over 30 other Seattle area parks and boulevards. The plan looked forward 100 years to provide open space for a city of 500,000. Seattle has now reached that mark, and today's challenge is not only to protect and preserve our century-old

legacy but also to carry the Olmsted philosophy into the next 100 years of landscape design and planning in order to ensure the preservation of open space in the century to come.

## OLMSTED CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, Seattle Parks and Recreation, the Department of Neighborhoods, and over 45 community, city and county organizations are organizing the Olmsted Centennial Celebration. This year-long series of events and projects will provide opportunities for community members and

professionals to learn about and celebrate Seattle's Olmsted legacy and its contribution to the development of the Seattle urban landscape. 2003 events include a Neighborhood Matching Grant project by Groundswell Off Broadway, Seattle

Parks and Recreation and Seattle Central Community College to build a new shelterhouse at Bobby Morris Playfield/Lincoln Reservoir on Capitol Hill. The park is an Olmsted-designed City Landmark and the new shelterhouse is reminiscent of the original shelterhouse built in 1907. There will be a dedication of the new shelterhouse in the spring of 2003 as part of the Centennial Celebration. Additional centennial events include specific parks projects such as the Seattle Park Foundation project to restore the Volunteer Park lily ponds, the EarthCorps IvyOUT project in Olmsted landscapes, the Days in the Parks summer neighborhood park event series, and the National Association for Olmsted Parks annual conference in May.

For information about participating in or contributing to the Olmsted Centennial Celebration or the Seattle 2003 conference, contact Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks at (206) 332-9915, via e-mail at [seattle2003@olmsted.org](mailto:seattle2003@olmsted.org), or visit their Web site at [www.seattle.gov/friendsofolmstedparks](http://www.seattle.gov/friendsofolmstedparks) on the internet. ♦



## City Invests in South Park and South Delridge Business Districts

The City of Seattle has allocated \$200,000 for business district improvements in the South Park and South Delridge neighborhoods in 2003. The City's Department of Neighborhoods will administer the money, which comes from federal Community Development Block Grant funds targeting low-income areas.

"In addition to high-profile City investments in such areas as Broadway and "the Ave" in the University District, we felt it was important to provide support to smaller business districts in distressed neighborhoods like South Park and South Delridge," said Department of Neighborhoods Director Yvonne Sanchez.

These efforts are part of Mayor Greg Nickels' strategy to build a stronger economy in Seattle by focusing on the basics such as supporting neighborhood business districts, and making sure no one is left behind in the push to maintain and broaden a diverse, family-wage job base throughout the City.

The partnership between the City and local businesses in South Park and South Delridge will focus on façade improvements such as painting, signage, and awnings in the area around 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and South Cloverdale Street in South Park, and near 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Southwest Roxbury in South Delridge. The projects may also include benches and trashcans on the sidewalks, and banners hung from streetlights.

Community partners for the business district improvement project include the South Park Merchants' Association, the White Center Community Development Association, the Environmental Coalition of South Seattle, and the South Park Neighborhood Association. ♦

## Neighborhood Matching Fund 2003 Deadlines

The Neighborhood Matching Fund supports grassroots action within neighborhoods. The Matching Fund provides cash to match community contributions of volunteer labor, donated professional services or materials, or cash in support of neighborhood-based self-help projects that benefit a neighborhood.

All Neighborhood Matching Fund applications are available from our offices in the Arctic Building at 700 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in downtown Seattle, at your local Neighborhood Service Center, and on the internet. For a complete set of guidelines, lists of projects, and applications online, go to [www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods](http://www.cityofseattle.net/neighborhoods) and click on "Neighborhood Matching Fund." ♦

### **SMALL AND SIMPLE PROJECTS FUND** 2003 deadlines:

January 27, July 21,  
and October 20

### **LARGE PROJECTS FUND** 2003 deadlines:

Letter of Intent:  
Monday, February 3

Application:  
Monday, May 5

# Lake City Coordinator Retires



The Department of Neighborhoods said goodbye this month to longtime Lake City Coordinator Yolanda Martinez who retired after 17 ½ years in her North Seattle post, and 22 years with the City. Mayor Greg Nickels proclaimed December 13 Yolanda Martinez day in recognition of her contributions as a devoted public

servant. She's a well-known community activist and organizer, and works tirelessly to develop stronger human service delivery systems and serve as a voice for those working to overcome language, social, economic, and racial barriers in Seattle.

Yolanda has received numerous awards and commendations from community organizations and the City for her commitment, outstanding dedication, and service above self to the community. One of her most heartfelt commitments is to the Lake City Christmas Project, a non-profit group she founded to provide food and toys to children and families in need.

Don't expect retirement to dull Yolanda's desire for community action. After nearly a quarter century in public service, she's already filling her calendar with new community events, activities, and service opportunities.

"You'll still be seeing a lot of me, " she told the Mayor at her going away party. ♦



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